

III. OTHER

Online Proctor Service

Thomas Edison State College recently launched a proctor service for online course exams to be taken in an online proctored environment. The Online Proctor Service enables students to take examinations at the location of their choice using almost any webcam, computer with microphone and speakers and a reliable high-speed Internet connection. Through this service, students no longer need to travel to approved proctor sites to take tests; proctors monitor students' test-taking via the webcam and microphone from a remote location. The online proctoring service also enhances academic integrity at the College and will result in students receiving their non-essay exam scores sooner than with site-based, pen/paper exams.

Partnership with University of South Africa

Thomas Edison State College and the University of South Africa (UNISA), one of the largest distance learning universities in the world, have renewed and expanded an international partnership agreement. The partnership creates provisions for credit transfer between the two institutions and enables graduates of UNISA, who typically earn a three-year undergraduate degree, to enroll at Thomas Edison State College to complete a four-year bachelor's degree. The agreement also calls for international collaborations designed to address the public policy and public service needs of both institutions.

College Selected to Participate in Coast Guard Partnership

Thomas Edison State College was recently selected to participate in a new program of U.S. Coast Guard that enables Coast Guard members to earn credit for their training and apply it toward a degree. It is one of 10 institutions in the country selected to participate in the Coast Guard's Maritime Law Enforcement College Partnership Program.

New Jersey State Library Selected Highlights

NJ State Library Grant. In July 2010, Thomas Edison State College was awarded a \$5.1 million federal grant to support the New Jersey State Library's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program, a project designed to add computer workstations, upgrade Internet connectivity and provide job search assistance and workforce development programs at hundreds of libraries throughout New Jersey. The grant was provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. The award, along with a \$1.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will be used to add computers at 124 libraries, upgrade connectivity at 79 libraries, and provide job search assistance, employment skills, workforce development programs and other online resources at 365 libraries across New Jersey. In addition, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation gave an additional \$150,000 to the New Jersey State Library to support E-rate technical assistance, which will help sustain the project's services.

Continuing Education. Library staff coordinated a statewide summer reading program that drew 145,628 children and teens who read 2,024,741 books. The second annual “Pennies for Peace” campaign was held. In excess of \$15,000 was collected. The money raised will continue to fund the building of schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Library staff received grants from the N.J. Council on the Humanities to continue the Prime Time Family Reading Time program series, and from the PSEG Foundation and Praxair to fund a third year of Live Homework Help NJ for selected public libraries. Grants were awarded to INFOLINK for a statewide Diversity Initiative series, as well as to six libraries that wanted to reinvent their space to better serve their communities with the help of a SWAT Team of library transformers.

New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center. On July 1, 2009, The New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped (NJLBH) changed its name to the New Jersey State Library – Talking Book and Braille Center (TBBC). The change in the library’s name better reflects the products it delivers statewide. TBBC continues to provide public library services by mail and by computer downloads to New Jersey residents of all ages who cannot easily read standard print materials because of a visual impairment, a physical handicap, or a learning disability of a physical origin. TBBC continued to maintain the state’s largest collection of books and magazines in Braille and audio formats, providing free access to more than 83,000 informational and recreational titles with now more than 18,000 unabridged titles digitally recorded and available for downloading. This year TBBC started receiving and distributing electronic books and digital players. At the end of June 2010, TBBC patrons were averaging more than 150 downloads of books each day.

Marketing Award. The State Library was awarded The John Cotton Dana Award, the most prestigious marketing award in the library field, for its statewide public awareness campaign, *Tell Us Your Story*. The award recognizes the top six library marketing campaigns in the world, with the winning libraries receiving a \$5,000 award.